

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 03626 260718Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2247
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

S E C R E T TEHRAN 3626

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR IR AF
SUBJ: IRANIAN/AFGHAN RELATIONS -- SECRETARY'S PLANNED VISIT

REF KABUL 2817

1. AT ANNUAL RECEPTION FOR DIPLOMATIC CHIEFS OF MISSION
APRIL 25TH, I WAS DRAWN ASIDE FOR A PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH
THE SHAH. HE SAID THAT HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO SECRETARY
VANCE'S VISIT AND THAT "WE HAVE A LOT TO TALK ABOUT." I ASKED
HIM IF THERE WERE ANY SUBJECTS HE HAD PARTICULARLY IN MIND.
HE RESPONDED "AFRICA AND WEST ASIA." HE SAID WITH A SMILE,
"WE COULD SPEND AT LEAST TWO HOURS ON THOSE SUBJECTS ALONE,"
ADDING THAT HE BELIEVES WE GENERALLY HAVE THE SAME VIEWS
ALTHOUGH "YOU DO NOT AGREE WITH US ABOUT AFGHANISTAN."
I ASKED WHAT HE MEANT BY THAT REMARK. HE SAID, "YOU DO NOT
SEEM TO TAKE SERIOUSLY DAOUD'S COMMENT ABOUT THE DURAND
LINE." (I TOOK THIS TO BE A REFERENCE TO DAOUD'S STATE-
MENT IN MOSCOW THAT RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN HAVE NOT BEEN
SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED DUE TO ONE POLITICAL CONTRADICTION
LEFT OVER FROM THE SHAMEFUL EPOCH OF IMPERIALISM (MOSCOW
5177). HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT WITH EVENTS IN PAKISTAN

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DAOUD COULD CONCEIVABLY CONSIDER IT AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEAL
WITH THE PUSHTUNISTAN QUESTION IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT PAKISTAN
WOULD NOT BE IN A POSITION TO RETALIATE. I MADE NO DIRECT
COMMENT BUT SAID THAT WE HEAR IRANIAN-AFGHAN RELATIONS ARE
NOT AS HARMONIOUS TODAY AS THEY ONCE WERE. THE SHAH
REPLIED THAT THIS WAS NO SECRET BECAUSE THE AFGHANS WERE
BUILDING A DAM ON THE HELMAND RIVER WHICH WOULD DIVERT WATER

IRAN NEEDED JUST TO RUN INTO THE SANDS OF BALUCHISTAN. HE SAID THIS WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE. I SAID THAT IT SEEMED UNFORTUNATE THAT THIS ISSUE WAS BEING ALLOWED TO COME BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WHO HAD SEEMED TO BE MOVING CLOSER TOGETHER IN VERY CONSTRUCTIVE WAYS TO THE BENEFIT OF SECURITY IN THE AREA. I ASKED WHAT HE THOUGHT MIGHT BE DONE ABOUT IT. HE SAID, "WE HAVE ASKED NAIM TO COME OVER AND DISCUSS THE MATTER."

2. COMMENT: REPORTS EMBASSY KABUL HAS OF THE SHAH'S IRE ARE OBVIOUSLY ACCURATE. I AM NOT SURE THAT AN APPEAL TO HIS STATESMANSHIP IN THIS CASE WOULD HAVE MUCH EFFECT. NEVERTHELESS, WE WOULD NOT CONTEST AMBASSADOR ELIOT'S RECOMMENDATION THAT THE SECRETARY CONSIDER RAISING THE MATTER WITH THE SHAH WHEN HE SEES HIM.
MIKLOS

SECRET

NNN

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